

OFFICE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL
ANALYST

JONATHAN C. BALL
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: Alex Wilson, Analyst
DATE: September 17, 2018
SUBJECT: Sage Grouse Expenditures

During the 2017 General Session the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million one-time from the General Fund to the Department of Natural Resources to continue a contract to support sage grouse and other endangered species, with the following intent language:

The Legislature intends that the Department of Natural Resources use the appropriation to satisfy any outstanding obligations on the existing sage grouse contract. Any funds not required for the existing contract shall be used, at the discretion of the department and consistent with state procurement requirements, for any renewal or extension of services relating to the sage grouse, and for the issues of wolves, wild horses, and other public lands issues. The Legislature also intends that the department obtain a financial report of the expenditures of the sage grouse contractor and make that report available to the Executive Appropriations Committee. (S.B. 3, Item 204)

In addition, the Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 one-time from the General Fund to the Attorney General's Office to finish sage grouse litigation efforts.

In your September 18 meeting representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and the Attorney General's Office will report on expenditures and outcomes.

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